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# OEPA Tours Waste Site, Plans Testing *Cincinnati Enquirer* 6-10-80

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**READING**—Chemical company officials Monday admitted toxic wastes are buried on the former Cincinnati Milacron Chemical Inc. property.

Earlier in the day, representatives of Carstab Corp., the new owners, guided an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) inspector to eight sites.

And the former owners, Cincinnati Milacron Inc., claimed they had done nothing illegal during the 30 years they owned the facility and buried their industrial wastes there.

Carstab guides "told me what had been done in various areas," said Mike Dalton, an OEPA geologist.

"THEY HAD a map marked with locations ... where materials had been dumped. The earliest date they had was 1950."

In addition to one lagoon, a land burial site still was in use, Dalton said. "They were still dumping small amounts there."

Dalton's visit was part of OEPA's investigation of toxic wastes oozing through the soil into the nearby Mill Creek. Neighboring properties, Cincinnati Drum Service Inc. and Pristine Inc., also are being examined.

Thiokol Corp. of Newtown, Pa., bought the Milacron Chemical works in April and renamed it Carstab.

At Milacron headquarters in Oakley, press officer John Reading read the company's formal response to questions about its waste handling practices in Reading:

"DURING THE time that Carstab Corp. was owned by Cincinnati Milacron Inc., the corporation complied with the applicable governmental regulations, relative to the disposal of chemical wastes on its West Street property."

He would not answer questions about those wastes, dumping practices or regulations. Previously, Milacron officials said the wastes no longer were their property or problem.

State and federal officials said Milacron may be right about the legality of their waste disposal sites, but the company may be liable if those legally buried chemicals are polluting the creek or ground water illegally.

The most recent waste burial was 1973, according to Dalton's guides, but former Milacron employees said they filled steel drums for on-site burial or buried them as late as 1977.

And they warned Dalton he was talking to company men who were too new to know what had been done.

Dalton said he is aware of that. "Their information is what they've been told," he said. "I don't necessarily accept what they say as the final word."

WHEN ASKED what he had shown Dalton Monday morning, Carstab's Bob Neubert said, "I'm sorry, I have no comment." Dalton could not remember the second man's last name when interviewed.

When Carstab President Ralph Blinn was called for comment, an aide said, "He is in a meeting." Blinn, a long-time Milacron Chemical

official who stayed when Thiokol Corp. bought the works, has not returned calls.

Dalton said he still hopes to talk with men who worked at Milacron when wastes were buried there.

After his tour and a conference with Miles Datesman, a colleague from OEPA's emergency response team, Dalton planned to "check over that whole area with my metal detector."

He is looking for steel drums which former employees say are under as much as 15 feet of soil. Dalton also plans to use an auger to take soil samples as deep as 21 feet.

IF THE chemicals leaked into sand and gravel, he says he will be able to find them in water samples.

That is what another OEPA investigator, Bill Barrow, said he believes has happened. It would explain the chemicals "leaching" through the soil and creek banks.

Dalton's soil samples will be analyzed by the Ohio Department of Health and compared to tests of pollutants collected along company property at the Mill Creek. If matching wastes can be found in soil samples, OEPA has the basis for an enforcement action against a specific company.

In the absence of further evidence, Dalton repeated an OEPA assurance that the seepage is not a clear and present health hazard so far. It is against the law to allow pollutants into the stream and that is what keeps OEPA on the job, he noted.